

PROTECTING HUMAN RIGHTS OF
SEX SLAVES—"COMFORT
WOMEN"—OF WORLD WAR II

HON. MICHAEL M. HONDA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 28, 2015

Mr. HONDA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to address the unresolved issue of the World War II sex slaves. Also known as "comfort women," these 200,000 women from Korea, China, the Philippines, Burma, Thailand, Vietnam, Malaysia, Taiwan, Indonesia, and East Timor were kidnapped and sexually enslaved by the Japanese Imperial Army during World War II.

These young women were coerced and suffered serious physical, emotional, and psychological damages as a result of their ordeal. On the solemn occasion of the 70th Anniversary of the end of WWII, the survivors of this horrific ordeal are still seeking their long overdue justice from the Government of Japan.

Today, we have one of these survivors in Washington, D.C. Her name is Yongsoo Lee. She has become the voice of justice, peace, and reconciliation. In 1944, 16-year-old Lee was forcibly taken to Taiwan, where she was victimized by multiple Japanese soldiers every day for a year. Her suffering was unimaginable and unspeakable. Sadly, she was not alone in this nightmare. And yet, out of the 200,000 of her sisters, today, she is one out of a handful of survivors from across the Asia-Pacific still alive.

When the Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe addresses a Joint Meeting of Congress on April 29, he has the opportunity to do right by these women. He can make a full, unequivocal, and formal apology on behalf of the Japanese government.

In 2007, in the very same chamber the Prime Minister will be issuing his address, the House of Representatives sent a profound message to the Japanese government by unanimously passing House Resolution 121, which I authored. The resolution called on the Japanese government to formally acknowledge, apologize, and accept historical responsibility in a clear and unequivocal manner for its Imperial Armed Forces' coercion of young women into sexual slavery; publicly refute any claims that the sexual enslavement and trafficking of the "comfort women" never occurred; and educate current and future generations about this horrible crime. We are still waiting for their government to comply.

Time is critical. Today, out of 200,000 survivors, there are fewer than 100 surviving women across the Asia-Pacific. Most of these women are in their 80s. They have been denied justice for too long.

Mr. Speaker, I will be in the House chamber when Prime Minister Abe delivers his address. Ms. Lee will attend as my guest. Both of us hope the Prime Minister will finally, and firmly, apologize, and commit to educating the future generation honestly and humbly. Ms. Lee and her sisters deserve no less.

HONORING PFC IGNACIO SERVIN
OF ARIZONA

HON. PAUL A. GOSAR

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 28, 2015

Mr. GOSAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Private First Class Ignacio Servin. On September 23, 1944, the 321st RCT, 81st Infantry Division landed on Umurbrogol Mountain, also known as "Bloody Nose Ridge", in Peleliu to relieve the 1st Marines who suffered nearly 50% casualties during the first week of fighting. Their assignment was to decimate the Japanese resistance and capture a strategic airstrip on the island.

Marines discovered an ammunition storage cave on Bloody Nose Ridge, but a barrage of artillery and naval gunfire failed to neutralize the cave. Company "A" of the 154th Engineer Combat Battalion was dispatched. Commanding Officers 1st Lt. Schauer and 1st Lt. Werdine requested volunteers to crawl to the mouth of the cave, nearly 500 feet with 24 pounds of TNT and a Browning automatic .30 caliber rifle to destroy the stockpile.

PFC Ignacio Servin of Arizona and Charles Samario, (deceased) accepted the challenge. PFC Servin stated he did not allow time to think of the risk or danger, but thought, "If I die, it will be for the greatest country in the world." Both soldiers survived violent explosions, leveled trees, and flying rocks. PFC Servin states that only "by the Grace of God we were not killed by the explosion or enemy gunfire making it safely back up the hill."

Today I honor the heroism, courage, and valor of PFC Ignacio Servin, who was awarded the Silver Star for gallantry in action during the assault on Peleliu in the Pacific combat theater.

RECOGNIZING THAD BEELER'S
COMMUNITY SERVICE FOL-
LOWING THE 2011 JOPLIN TOR-
NADO

HON. BILLY LONG

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 28, 2015

Mr. LONG. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the leadership and public service of Thad Beeler in the aftermath of the May 22, 2011 Joplin tornado, and congratulate him on receiving the Missouri Humanities Council's Exemplary Community Achievement Award.

Many lives were lost or significantly changed in Joplin that tragic spring day. Many homes and businesses were leveled and thousands of memories captured in photos blew away in the storm. During a visit to his parents to clean up storm damage, Thad realized the need to recover and reunite the lost photos with families.

As the Carthage First Baptist Church's music minister and ministry outreach director,

Thad was able to coordinate a group of 500 volunteers to recover, preserve and reunite Joplin families with lost photos and personal memorabilia. This group scoured the town in the search of documents and was able to recover some items from as far as Willard, Missouri—some 60 miles away. After 6,000 volunteer hours, more than 35,000 photos and items were recovered, retouched and stored at Carthage First Baptist in what became the "Lost Photos of Joplin" project. More than 17,600 photos and memories have been returned to Joplin residents since the project began nearly four years ago.

The project's success and notoriety led Thad to establish the National Disaster Photo Rescue, a non-profit supporting post-disaster photo rescue and restoration efforts. The national organization has been in communities across the country that have experienced loss from severe weather, including Moore, Oklahoma, and Washington, Illinois.

Thad Beeler has made it possible for storm victims to find documented history, that would otherwise be lost, and continue passing it down through generations to come. His dedication to his community and serving a special need across the country touches the lives of so many and eases the sting of devastation. I commend Thad for putting a novel idea to action and thank him for this uniquely meaningful service he has provided to Joplin residents and beyond.

IN RECOGNITION OF MRS. ANNIE
PEARL WALL GODFREY

HON. MIKE ROGERS

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 28, 2015

Mr. ROGERS of Alabama. Mr. Speaker, I ask for the House's attention today to recognize Mrs. Annie Pearl Wall Godfrey, a 1945 graduate of East Highland High School which was located in Sylacauga, Alabama.

Mrs. Godfrey was born to Celophus and Annie Marzel Wall in Nixburg, Alabama, on May 18, 1924. She was a part of the first graduating class of East Highland High School. She has been married to Rev. Eratus Godfrey for the past 56 years and is a member of New Beginning Ministries where her husband serves as the pastor.

She is the mother of 10 children, three of which are deceased (Donald, Virgil and Gwendolyn) and three of whom are ordained ministers (Kenneth, DeForest, and Mary). She also helped raise the children of her late daughter. Mrs. Godfrey currently resides in Sylacauga.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in recognizing Mrs. Annie Pearl Wall Godfrey as she celebrates her 70th anniversary of graduating from East Highland High School.